

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller, said core being in a substantially cylindrical shape comprising:

a bore extending in an axial direction and a plurality of small holes communicating between said bore and a circumferential outer surface of the core, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a diameter of said bore is 10 mm or more, [[and]]

a diameter of said small holes is 2.5 mm or more, and

a total of cross-sectional areas of the openings of the plurality of the small holes is larger than a cross-sectional area of the bore.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of small holes are distributed both in a circumferential direction and in an axial direction of said core and aligned along straight lines in the axial direction; [[,]]

small holes in one of the straight lines and small holes in a straight line adjacent to said one of the straight lines are arranged on one and the same circumference of the core; [[,]] and

grooves recessed in the circumferential outer surface of said core extend in the axial direction of said core, and said small holes open into said grooves.

Claim 3 (original): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 2, wherein the number of the small holes opening into one groove is 2 to 5.

Claim 4 (original): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 3, wherein the number of the small holes opening into one groove in the axial direction of said core takes a repeat pattern of 2, 3, or 4, or a pattern of 2 and 3, 2 and 4, or 3 and 4.

**Claim 5 (currently amended):** A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~claims~~ claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein, in the circumferential direction of said core, either four or six grooves are positioned at even intervals, and different numbers of the small holes open into the adjacent grooves, where the number of the small holes takes a repeat pattern in the circumferential direction of the core.

**Claim 6 (currently amended):** A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 5]], wherein [[a]] at least one flange ~~or~~ flanges are attached either to one end or to both ends of said core.

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]], wherein the diameter of said bore is 10 mm to 20 mm, [[and]] the diameter of said small holes is 2.5 mm to 5 mm, and a total of the cross-sectional areas of the openings of all the small holes is larger than the cross-sectional area of the bore.

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 7]], wherein a total of the cross-sectional areas of the openings of all the small holes is 1.2 to 5 times larger than the cross-sectional area of the bore.